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**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011  
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CITY COUNCIL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

**RON MENOR**

Councilmember, District 9

Email: [rmenor@honolulu.gov](mailto:rmenor@honolulu.gov)

Phone: 808-768-5009

FAX: 808-768-5011

To: Councilmembers

From: Councilmember Ron Menor

Date: May 9, 2013

Re: Testimonies Supporting Bill 11 (2013) CD1 – Support of Weed and Seed Program

Attached are copies of Testimonies Supporting Bill 11 (2013) CD1 – Support of Weed and Seed Program from the following:

1. Eric Wong
2. Frances Rivero, Chair of Site 3 – Ewa/Ewa Beach Steering Committee
3. Shaunna Okuda, Chair of Site 1 – Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan Steering Committee
4. Maile Kanemaru, Director Weed and Seed
5. John Kauwenaole, Chair of Site II – Waipahu Steering Committee

Thank you very much for your attention to the above matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

May 8, 2013

The Honorable Ann H. Kobayashi, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
& Distinguished Members of the Committee on Budget  
City Council  
Honolulu Hale  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kobayashi, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Budget Committee:

RE: BILL 11 (2013) CD1 – SUPPORT FOR THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of Bill 11 (2013) CD1 that includes monies to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that have helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in our community.

As a first year member of the Kalihi-Chinatown Weed & Seed's Steering Committee, I see first-hand how effective Weed & Seed has been in our community for nearly five years.

Working in Chinatown and a member of Friends of Chinatown, I see first hand the need for Weed and Seed as part of an active Citizen Patrol unit under the Honolulu Police Department District 1. We actively walk Chinatown twice a week, conduct monthly safer road sign waving campaigns and pedestrian safety events on Kekaulike Mall.

Living in Kapalama Heights, I am part of an active Citizen Patrol and Neighborhood Security Watch under Honolulu Police Department District 5, my neighbors were trained and now work closely with assigned Weed and Seed's Community Policing police officers to address area concerns including illegal drug activities, speeding, burglary and petty thefts.

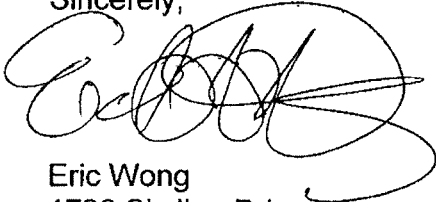
I strongly believe this working relationship as their 'eyes and ears' for and with the police creates a safer community from Kalihi to Chinatown. Our communities need Weed & Seed more than ever especially with these tougher economic times and higher drug abuse epidemic.

Currently, Bill 11 (2013) CD1 has designated \$150,000 for Weed & Seed. On behalf of my community where I work and live, I humbly ask that our City Council increase that amount to \$200,000. Increased Weed & Seed programs will save the City & County of Honolulu thousands of dollars annually through crime prevention.

Weed & Seed has been instrumental in getting businesses, residents, service providers and community groups to "volunteer" our time, including my personal 2-4 hours a week, as in Citizen Patrols and other events that strengthen community involvement in crime prevention. Additionally funding will allow us to continue our efforts with the assistance of the Honolulu Police Department Community Policing officers who are building a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

I urge you to support the passage of Bill 11 (2013) CD1 with our recommended request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eric Wong', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Eric Wong  
1726 Skyline Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
808 371-0016

May 7, 2013

The Honorable Ann H., Kobayashi, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Committee on Budget  
City Council  
Honolulu Hale  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kobayashi, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Budget Committee:

**RE: BILL 11 (2013) CD1-SUPPOPT FOR THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of Bill 11 (2013) CD1 that includes monies to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that have helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community.

As the Ewa/Ewa Beach Steering Committee Chair, I have witnessed and acknowledge the good work Weed and Seed has done in the past ten plus years. The increased collaboration with Law Enforcement and community agencies, non- profits, businesses, schools and more importantly our young people who together work hand in hand that brings back hope to residents living once in a distressed neighborhood. Truancy rates has decreased, positive programs for kids have been put in place as; mentoring programs, sports and recreational programs, community and Kupuna beautification program, along with life learning skills as culinary program, the arts program and job skills to name a few.

Whether it is through mentoring our youth, offering prevention programs or career developmental programs, it strives to fulfill the goals of Federal Weed and Seed strategy, that encourages our youth to become better citizens. Although currently, Bill II (2013) CD1 has designated \$150,000 for Weed and Seed, my community and I humbly asks that the City Council increase the amount to \$200,000. Every year Weed and Seed is instrumental in getting businesses, residents, service providers and community groups to "volunteer" their time cleaning up the neighborhoods and streams, participating in Citizen Patrol groups and organizing positive events and programs to strengthen our families. These efforts save the City and County of Honolulu thousands of dollars annually. So we need your support by increasing the funding that will allow us to continue these efforts with the assistance of the Honolulu Police Department and Community Policing officers.

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RE: BILL 11 (2013) CDI

With your help and support of Weed and Seed program together we can continue to build a stronger network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and improve the quality of life for neighborhoods in Hawaii.

I urge you to support the passage of Bill 11 (2013) with our recommended request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frances Rivero", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Frances Rivero, Chair

Site 3-Ewa/Ewa Beach Steering Committee

May 8, 2013

The Honorable Ann H. Kobayashi, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Committee on Budget  
City Council  
Honolulu Hale  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kobayashi, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Budget Committee:

RE: BILL 11 (2013) CD1 – SUPPORT FOR THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of Bill 11 (2013) CD1 that includes monies to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that have helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community.

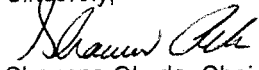
As the Chair of the Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan Steering Committee, I have had the good fortune of being able to see first-hand how effective Weed & Seed has been in our community. Citizens are willing to join citizen patrol groups and are more willing to talk about what is going on in the community. Weed and Seed has been very involved in our community by coordinating citizen patrol training and walks with the citizen patrol groups, provides tools to support citizen patrol groups need (i.e. support from the police officers, flashlights, vests, t-shirts, etc.) coordinates and participates in community clean ups and graffiti clean ups with residents and volunteers within the community. (i.e. Pua Lane to Akepo Lane, Ala Moana beach park, Project Clean, Alokele to Kaiwiula Street, Chinatown, etc.). Weed and Seed conducts truancy sweeps/juvenile education and R.A.P. (Real And Powerful) sessions at Dole Middle School with select 6<sup>th</sup> graders and at Ka'ewai Elementary School with all 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Weed and Seed participates in keiki ID at Community events, knock and burns, etc. They also participate in community events (i.e. Kalihi Community Forum, Healthy Kids Day at the Bishop Museum, National Night Out, late night basketball at Kalihi Palama Settlement, S.O.S. (Save Our Streets), etc.).

Currently, Bill 11 (2013) CD1 has designated \$150,000 for Weed & Seed. My community humbly asks that the City Council increase that amount to \$200,000. Every year, Weed & Seed is instrumental in getting businesses, residents, service providers and community groups to "volunteer" their time cleaning up the neighborhoods and streams, participating in Citizen Patrol groups and organizing positive events and programs to strengthen our families. These efforts save the City & County of Honolulu thousands of dollars annually. The increase of funding will allow us to continue these efforts with the assistance of the Honolulu Police Department Community Policing officers.

Your continued support of the Weed & Seed program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

I urge you to support the passage of Bill 11 (2013) CD1 with our recommended request.

Sincerely,



Shaunna Okuda, Chair  
Site 1 Steering Committee  
Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan

The Honorable Ann Kobayashi

Chair, Committee on Budget

Honolulu Hale, 530 S. King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: BILL 11 (2013) Executive Operating Budget and Program**

Hearing: Monday, April 8, 2013, 9:00am

My name is Maile Kanemaru, Director of Honolulu Weed and Seed.

I am testifying in support of Bill 11, Executive Operating Budget and Program, to sustain the Weed and Seed Program.

Weed and Seed is a program sponsored by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii, in partnership with the YMCA of Honolulu.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, churches and private businesses has helped to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for the designated neighborhoods. It is doing substantial good in our communities to improve the quality of life. The City and County of Honolulu has benefited greatly by the weed and Seed Program, based on the two-prong approach of "weeding out" criminal activity and introducing "seeding" activities and programs ensuring long-term positive changes.

There are no funds available for Weed and Seed from the Department of Justice. It has been cancelled on the national level. In Hawaii, we received the permission from the DOJ to continue with the program, including using the name and logo, recognizing that W&S in Hawaii is robust and supported by the community stakeholders.

We are depending on local government and private donations to continue the program. The current funds end in December of 2013. We are currently operating from a Grant In Aid from the State Legislature and from a budget allocation from the City Council last year. An allocation from the City Council will assist Weed and Seed in continuing to leverage funds from the private sector businesses and Foundations.

The request of \$200,000 is needed to support the CORE of Weed and Seed in all three sites, Kalihi/Palama/Chinatown/Ala Moana, Waipahu and Ewa/Ewa Beach. The Sites have always been resourceful in raising their own funds for specific program activities. We are in need of the City funds to continue to have the Weed and Seed staff to Coordinate activities (to avoid duplication), teach Collaboration (no one entity can do it alone), encourage community Participation, and Leverage other resources from Stake holders in the community

Thank you for your consideration

Maile Kanemaru, Director Weed and Seed

[mkanemaru@ymcahonolulu.org](mailto:mkanemaru@ymcahonolulu.org)



May 8, 2013

The Honorable Ann H. Kobayashi, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Committee on Budget  
City Council  
Honolulu Hale  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kobayashi, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Budget Committee:

RE: BILL 11 (2013) CD1 – SUPPORT FOR THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of Bill 11 (2013) CD1 that includes monies to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

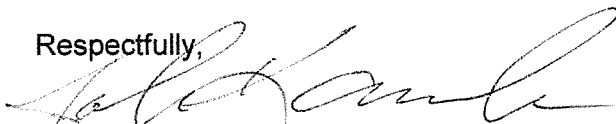
As the Chair of the Waipahu Steering Committee, I have had the good fortune of being able to see first-hand how effective Weed & Seed has been in our community. Weed & Seed has been successful in getting groups to "adopt" different locations throughout our site that are continuously plagued with graffiti. These groups help to maintain the beauty of our community in between our quarterly clean ups. We have nurtured the establishment of the Waipahu Community Based Development Organization who in 2011 became a 501c3 and has supported events such as the Waipahu 5K Cane Haul Run and Historic Tour of Waipahu which has brought our families together and created a sense of pride. Our police officers have mentored our youth from elementary through high school, creating a continued presence at our schools. Finally, we have seen a decrease in drug dealing and criminal activity in Aniani Place and the neighborhoods known as the "Pupu" area. Through all of our growth and changes, Weed & Seed has been at the forefront leading the charge and holding us, the residents accountable for our choices while reinforcing a sense of responsibility.

Currently, Bill 11 (2013) CD1 has designated \$150,000 for Weed & Seed. Waipahu humbly asks the City Council to increase that amount to \$200,000. Weed & Seed has been instrumental in getting businesses, residents, service providers and community groups to "volunteer" our time to clean up the neighborhoods and streams, be the eyes and ears in the community through Citizen Patrol groups and helping to organize positive events and programs to strengthen our families. These efforts save the City & County of Honolulu thousands of dollars annually. The increase of funding will allow us to continue these efforts with the assistance of the Honolulu Police Department Community Policing officers.

Your continued support of the Weed & Seed program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

I urge you to support the passage of Bill 11 (2013) CD1 with our recommended request.

Respectfully,



John Kauwenaole, Chair  
Site II Steering Committee  
Waipahu